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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

C0070041
Outgoing
#4324
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June 24, 2013

Jay Marshall, Resident Agent
West Ridge Resources, Inc.
P.O. Box 910
East Carbon, Utah, 84520-0910

Subject: 2012 Annual Report Review Completion, West Ridge Mine, C/007/0041, Task ID #4324

Dear Mr. Marshall:

The Division staff has completed the review of the 2012 Annual Report. Enclosed is a copy of the review with each reviewer's comments completed on June 24, 2013. Please note, that the raptor survey and projected mining map do not contain enough information for the Division to determine whether or not raptor nests will be impacted by undermining. In the future, you must provide maps in which the Division can correlate the projected mining panels and the location of active and tended raptor nests. This information could include providing the shapefiles, putting section lines on the Mine map, or adding the mine panels to the raptor nest location map. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Thank you for your diligence in completing the Annual Report. If you have any questions, please call me at (801) 538-5325.

Sincerely,

Daron R. Haddock
Coal Program Manager

DRH/sqs
Enclosure
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Annual Report

This Annual Report shows information the Division has for your mine. Submit the completed document and any additional information identified in the Appendices to the Division by the date specified in the cover letter. During a complete inspection an inspector will check and verify the information.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Company Name	West Ridge Resources	Mine Name	West Ridge Mine
Permit Number	C/007/0041	Permit expiration Date	4/1/2014
Operator Name	Utah American Energy	Phone Number	+1 (435) 888-4000
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 910	Email	dhibbs@coalsource.com
City	East Carbon		
State	Utah	Zip Code	84520

DOGM File Location or Annual Report Location

Excess Spoil Piles

- ☐ Required
☒ Not Required

Refuse Piles

- ☐ Required
☐ Not Required

Impoundments

- ☒ Required
☐ Not Required

Other:

Sediment Pond Certification Included

OPERATOR COMMENTS

REVIEWER COMMENTS

☒ Met Requirements ☐ Did Not meet Requirements

Permittee has conducted the required sediment pond inspections.

COMMITMENTS AND CONDITIONS

The Permittee is responsible for ensuring annual technical commitments in the Mining and Reclamation Plan and conditions accepted with the permit are completed throughout the year. The Division has identified these commitments below and has provided space for you to report what you have done during the past year for each commitment. If additional written response is required, it should be filed as an attachment to this report.

Title: EXPERIMENTAL FIELD TRIALS

Objective: Monitoring to support proposed experimental practice. Provide a comparison of growth on field trials with Douglas/Fir reference area.

Frequency: Annual evaluation in June

Status: Ongoing

Reports: Provide in annual report

Citation: MRP, Volume 1, Appendix 2-6 and Volume A, Map 2-4

Operator Comments

The required report "Vegetation Monitoring at the Experimental Test Plot, 2012?" prepared by Mt. Nebo Scientific, is included.

Reviewer Comments ☒ Met Requirements ☐ Did Not Meet Requirements

Reviewed by Priscilla Burton on 6/21/2013. This report begins on page 45 of the electronic version of the Annual Report. Little has changed since the 2011 sampling. Total living cover is comparable between reference area and reclaimed plots (about 65%), with the exception of the Midfork cut which has a total living cover of 70.50%. Differences in life form between reference area and reclaimed plots are to be expected, since no woody species were seeded or planted. As noted in Task 3111 review (2009), a comparison of the Strych Stockpile plot and the Strych Fill plot is the test of the conventional technique versus the experimental technique in the same soil type. Information presented indicates that there was no difference in total living cover on the Strych plots (62 and 65% total living cover). The difference in composition between the plots is not statistically significant, since the standard of deviation is high in both cases. This was also the case with 2010 and 2011 sampling.

Title: SOIL SAMPLING OF FILL AT T1, T2 AND T3

Objective: To protect buried substitute topsoil in the fill. Collect a composite sample from several locations near each site to obtain a more average value.

Frequency: Annual evaluation during field season.

Status: Ongoing beginning in 2010.

Reports: Annual report

Citation: MRP, Volume 1, Appendix 2-6 addendum and Volume A, Map 2-4

Operator Comments

Reviewer Comments ☒ Met Requirements

☐ Did Not Meet Requirements

Reviewed 6/21/2013 by Priscilla Burton. The soils report begins on page 14 of the electronic version of the annual report. Sampling locations are shown on Figure 1 included with the soils report. A GPS locations has been reported for each sample location (T1, T2, T3) and an attempt to resample the same locations each year is being made. Thus the sample locations (T1, T2, T3) vary by several feet from year to year. Samples were analyzed by the BYU Soil and Plant Lab (p. 26 of the electronic annual report). The analyses are reported by year in Table 1. The mean and standard of deviation is provided for each sample parameter across all locations (the columns in Table 1) and for each location (the rows in table 1). A high deviation from the mean indicates a location has been affected by a operational practice (as in the case of SAR and EC values at site T3 in 2008 and 2012 and also the EC values at site T1 in 2009. In 2008, the standard of deviations for all parameters were less than 1.0, which indicates consistency for such a small number of samples. But in 2012, the standard of deviation was much higher for all parameters, due to the wide spread of values across the three locations. The variability of each parameter (row) at each location T1, T2, T3 over time was also be analyzed by calculating the mean and standard of deviation for each row in Table 1. The variability of parameter values over time at each location indicates the range of values for pH, EC, SAR and % CaCO2 for each general location T1, T2, & T3 and allows comparison of the range at each location. For example, SAR values at T1 have a mean of 2.71 but the standard of deviation allows that values will fall 1.67+ or - 2.71 at T1. Whereas the mean SAR value at T3 is 12.58 with a very large (10.93) standard of deviation.

Title: SUBSIDENCE MONITORING

Objective: To monitor subsidence from longwall mining practices. Subsidence monitoring of panels until the effects of mining have stabilized and vertical movement is less than six inches per year.

Frequency: annual

Status: Ongoing

Reports: annual report

Citation: MRP, Volume 2, Chapter 5, page 5-23b to 5-23e

Operator Comments

Subsidence information is included.

Reviewer Comments ☒ Met Requirements

☐ Did Not Meet Requirements

Updated subsidence data (as of October 4, 2012) was included with the annual report submittal. No significant elevation differences were observed in the data outside the expected range as described in the approved MRP. Subsidence monitoring was conducted using aerial survey methods.

FUTURE COMMITMENTS AND CONDITIONS

The following commitments are not required for the current annual report year, but will be required by the permittee in the future as indicated by the "status" field. These commitments are included for information only, and do not currently require action. If you feel that the commitment is no longer relevant or needs to be revised, please contact the Division.

Title: RECLAMATION MONITORING

Objective: Visually assess the revegetation success.

Frequency: Quarterly for the first three years and annually in June of each year thereafter

Status: Implement at reclamation

Reports: Annual Report

Citation: MRP, Volume 1, Chapter 3, page 3-16, paragraph 2

Title: MEXICAN SPOTTED OWL SURVEY

Objective: Conduct appropriate surveys for Mexican spotted owls on the lease tract areas with 40 percent or greater slopes, cliff habitat areas, riparian habitats, and mixed conifer forest habitats, prior to any future surface disturbing activity and/or any mining activity with the potential to interrupt surface spring flows. Inventory work must be conducted by parties approved and permitted for such survey work by the Fish and Wildlife Service and qualified in accordance with R645-301-132. Surveys must follow current protocol established by Fish and wildlife service.

Frequency: As needed

Status: ongoing

Reports: Annual

Citation: Permit condition attachment A, special condition #3.

Title: SOIL SAMPLING OF FINAL GRADED FILL AT CATCHMENTS A, C AND E

Objective: At final reclamation, the reclaimed surface soils of the catchments will be tested for pH, EC and SAR to allow for the evaluation of the salinity and the need for a revision or addition to the final seed mix to enhance germination and establishment.

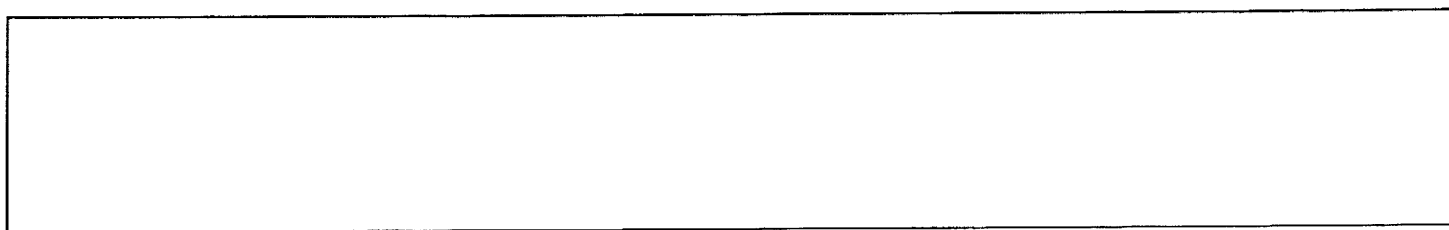
Frequency: Once after final grading

Status: Future commitment

Reports: Provide information to the Division

Citation: MRP, Volume 2, Appendix 5-15, Attachment 9, page 14

OPERATOR COMMENTS (OPTIONAL)**REVIEWER COMMENTS**



REPORTING OF OTHER TECHNICAL DATA

Please list other technical data or information that was not included in the form above, but is required under the approved plan, which must be periodically submitted to the Division.

Please list attachments:

Reviewer Comments

The Operator has been largely successful in providing the required water monitoring data. A Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued on January 10th, 2013 for missing water quality data (See NOV #10103). The NOV was terminated on February 12th, 2013. However, according to the Permittee, continuous flow data for stream monitoring site RF-1, 2nd quarter 2012 was unobtainable.

Raptor Survey Reviewed by Ingrid Campbell (6/24/2013): The B Canyon Fan portal was surveyed for raptor nests due to proposed construction work on the portal. Only one golden eagle nest was within 1/2 mile and line of site of the portal. The nest did not appear to be tended or active. The nests were monitored again in May and were inactive. The Division issued approval for the mine to immediately begin work on the portal.

The 2012 raptor survey was also submitted in the annual report. Two active and four tended golden eagle nests and one active red tailed hawk nest were identified. No projected mining map was provided. The Mine map located in the MRP does not have section lines on it. Therefore, it was nearly impossible to ascertain whether active or tended nests were located over projected mining panels. From looking at historic nest locations housed at the Division and correlating that to the mine map, we were able to determine that none of the active or tended nests should be impacted by undermining. This level of detail will not be accepted next year. Either shapefiles of nest locations and the projected mining panels or a map containing both raptor nests and mine panels as well as an explanation of the predicted impact of mining to nests is required for subsequent annual reports.

MAPS

Copies of mine maps, current and up-to-date, are to be provided to the Division as an attachment to this report in accordance with the requirements of R645-301-525.240. The map copies shall be made in accordance with 30 CFR 75.1200 as required by MSHA. Mine maps are not considered confidential.

Map Name	Map Number	Included		Confidential	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
Annual subsidence map		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mine Map		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Reviewer Comments ☒ Met Requirements ☐ Did Not Meet Requirements

An updated mine map was included with the annual report.